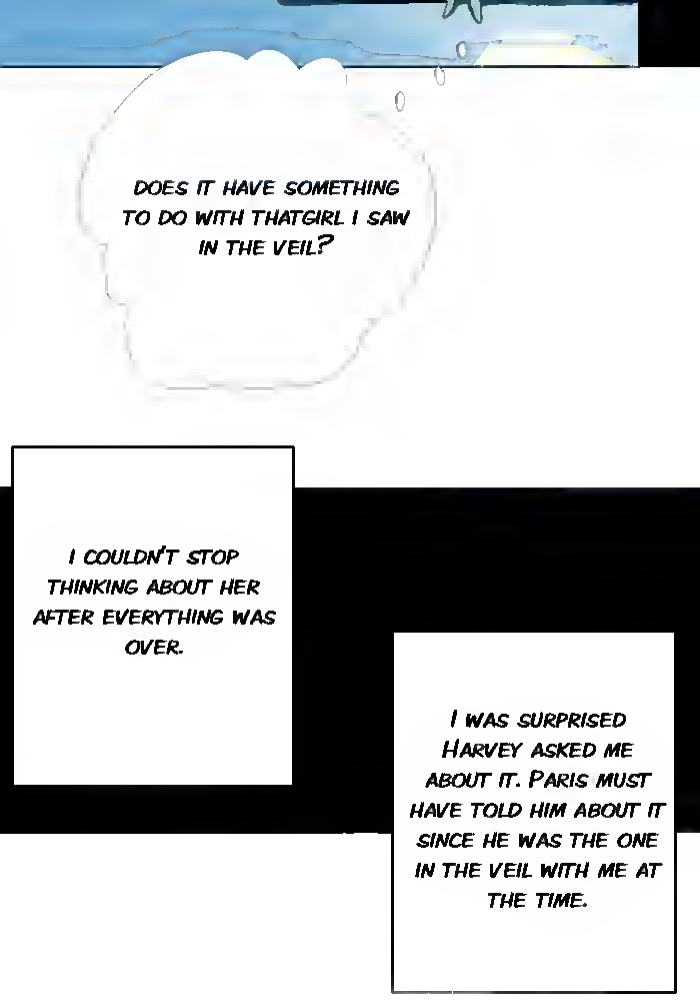
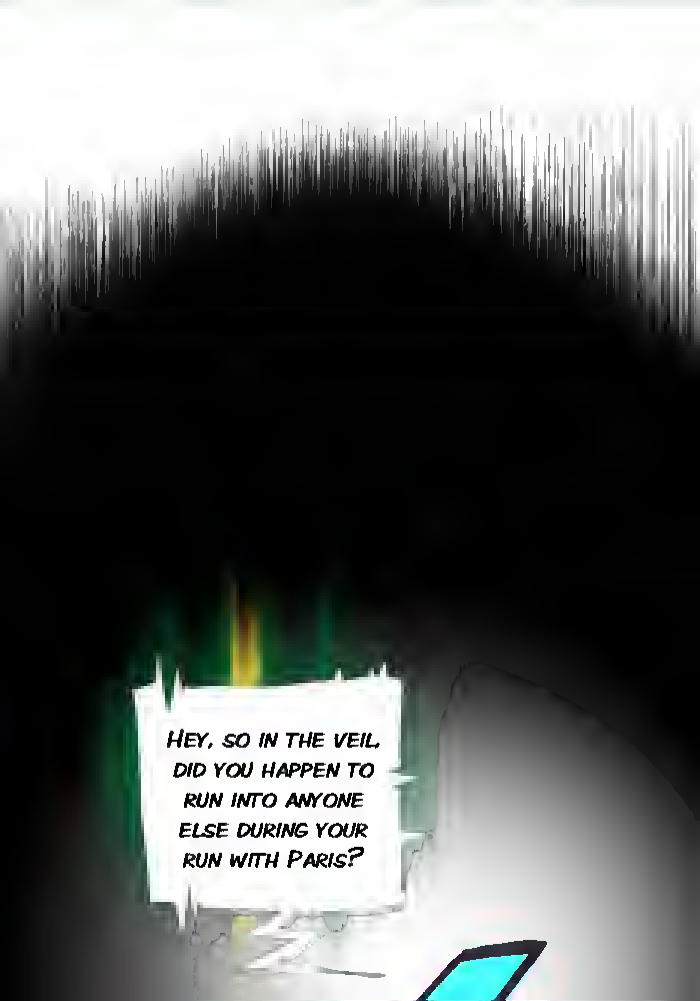
catharsis

By Ahniki

EVER SINCE ANNA'S DEFAECO, I'VE BEEN HAVING THE SAME HORRIBLE DREAM OVER AGAIN.

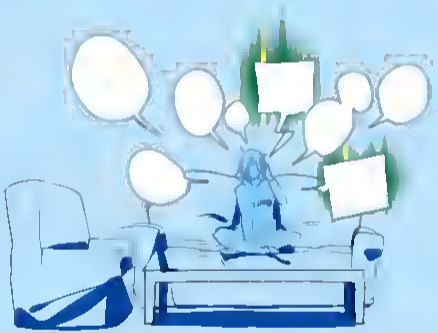

DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THATGIRL I SAW IN THE VEIL?
I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER AFTER EVERYTHING WAS OVER.
I WAS SURPRISED HARVEY ASKED ME ABOUT IT. PARIS MUST HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT IT SINCE HE WAS THE ONE IN THE VEIL WITH ME AT THE TIME.


Hey, so in the veil, did you happen to run into anyone else during your run with Paris?

HUH?

WELL.. THERE WAS THIS GIRL...

I DIDN;T EXACTLY TELL HIM "EVERYTHING"... LIKE THE FACT THAT SHE COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE SPEAKING TO ME IN MY HEAD THIS ENTIRE TIME.



EVEN WITH SUCH A THING LIKE CATHARSIS EXISTING EVEN I WOULD THINK I'M LEGIT CRAZY.

I THINK SHE HELPED ME.
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT PARIS WAS (SUPPOSED) TO BE THERE TO BACK ME UP--
I THINK I COULD HAVE DIED IF IT WASN'T FOR HER.

Ahh. I see.
It didn't seem like it was a bad thing from Harvey's reaction. But I wished he told me more about it.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE GUARDIAN ANGEL WATCHING OVER YOU.

NOT TO MENTION MY NEW FULL-TIME BABYSITTER...

DAMN.. YOU GET SLOWER GETTING READY IN THE MORNING EVERY DAY.

NO ONE SAID YOU HAD TO WALK ME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WELL... NOW THAT HE'S MENTIONED IT..

I'VE ALSO NOTICED THAT IT'S GETTING HARDER FOR ME TO GET OUT OF BED IN

THE MORNING AFTER WAKING UP TO THAT BAD DREAM. IT'S EXHAUSTING.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS AGAIN?
I THOUGHT YOU HATED "BABYSITTING".

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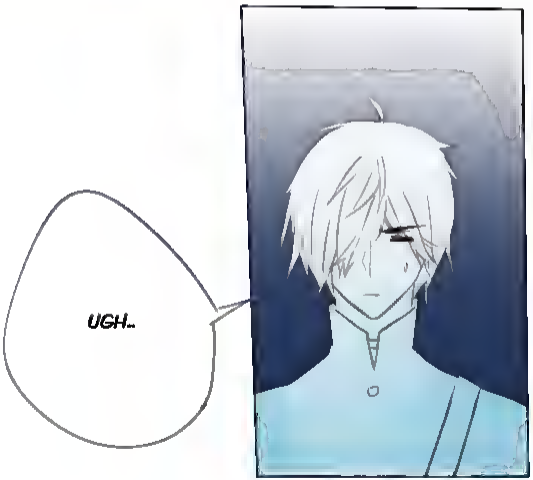

UGH..

I think I messed up big time. After my first official job working with Harvey and Paris I got benched.

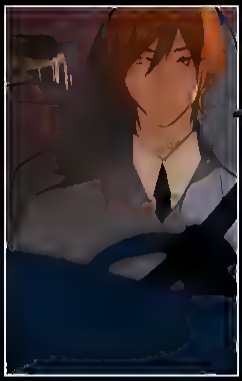
I haven't been on any other jobs after that and I heard that some of Shion's team members ended up taking my place.

And now, Paris has me on a leash for whatever reason.

TCH-

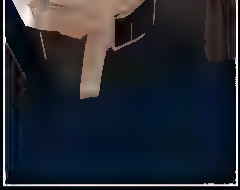
There was another in the veil with us.
I think Leon was the one who brought it in.
A straggling timorem?

--YOU KNOW THAT IF IT WERE THAT CASE, I WOULDN'T BE WASTING MY TIME TALKING ABOUT IT.



WELL THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER EXPLANATION I COULD THINK OF. BUT IT'S TOO RARE A COINCIDENCE.

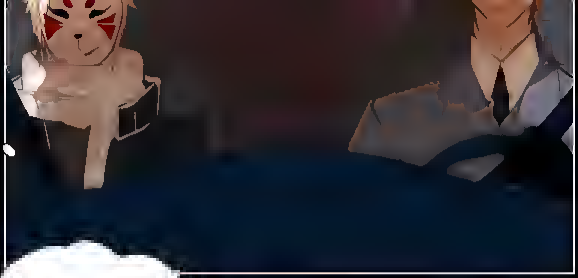
...IT WAS UNCANNY.



The feeling reminded me too much of Elliot. It's frustrating. and I don't like it.

Well this is inconvenient.

I believe you 100% but we need Big Boss's help on this seeing how we don't have the information to fix this.



BIG BOSS? WHEN DID HE COME UP WITH THAT NICKNAME?

But we're on our own right now.

Boss was just sealed in HQ's lower chambers. There's no way we can get in contact until that ritual is over.

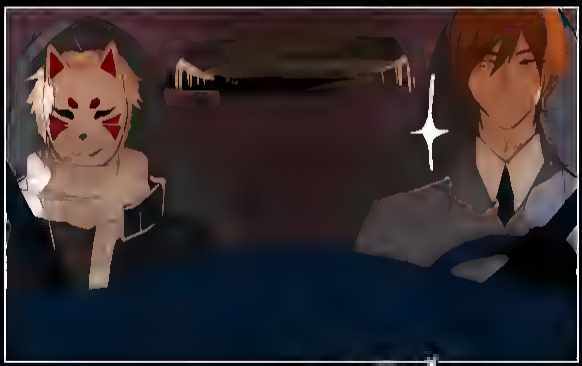
We can't do much now but watch over him

CLOSELY. I HATE HAVING TO PUT YOUR TRAINING OFF. BUT YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WATCH HIM WHILE I HANDLE THE JOBS WE GET.

...

OH? NO COMPLAINTS? I THOUGHT YOU HATED BABYSITTING.
-THIS IS NO TIME TO BE JOKING AROUND, HARVEY-

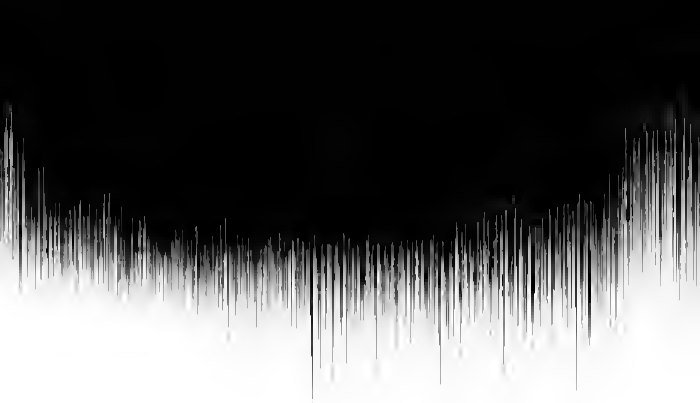
I KNOW. I KNOW. AND, I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU ARE CAPABLE IF SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG.



YOU ONLY NEED TO HOLD OUT UNTIL I GET THERE. AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF

THE REST WITH OR WITHOUT BIG BOSS'S INFO.

BUT I KNOW NOTHING WILL GO WRONG. SO, DO YOUR BEST UNTIL THEN, OK?



"NOTHING WILL GO WRONG."